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IN THE CLAIMS:

50. (Once Amended) A method of starting a two-stroke engine comprising:
- (A) manually driving a rotational component of the engine to rotate;
  - (B) determining an absolute rotational position of the component;
  - (C) enabling an engine firing sequence upon determining the absolute rotational position of the component; then
  - (D) determining a rotational direction of the component based on continued monitoring of the rotation of the component; and then
  - (E) disabling the engine firing sequence if it is determined in step (D) that the component is running in a reverse direction;
- wherein the step of determining the absolute rotational position of the component comprises detecting rotation of first and second angularly-spaced indexing markers on the component past a detector and identifying the second detected indexing marker and detecting rotation of a third indexing marker on the component past the detector and identifying the third indexing marker and determining a sequence that the identified indexing markers are detected; and
- wherein the second indexing marker is located at a first angular spacing  $\alpha$  from the first indexing marker and a second angular spacing  $\beta$  from the third indexing marker, wherein  $\alpha$  is not equal to  $\beta$ , wherein a plurality of equally-spaced indicator markers are provided on the component, and wherein the step of determining the